

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9069

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: PLANNED VISIT DR. GERARDO SICAT TO AID/W

1. DR. GERARDO SICAT, DIRECTOR GENERAL NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PLANS BE IN WASHINGTON MONDAY NOVEMBER 19 IN CONNECTION WITH IBRD BUSINESS. HE HAS REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS WITH AID OFFICERS NOVEMBER 20. MISSION AND SICAT BELIEVE THIS REPRESENTS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY ESTABLISH PERSONAL CONTACT AND EXCHANGE VIEWS BETWEEN SICAT AND AID/W (AND POSSIBLY STATE) POLICY MAKERS.

2. SICAT INTELLIGENT AND ARTICULATE ECONOMIST AND DEVELOPMENT "THEORETICIAN" OF INTERNATIONAL STANDING. HIS INTERESTS AND CONCERN WITH PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT ENCOMPASS ENTIRE RANGE DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE, TRADE AND AID MATTERS. HE ONE OF SMALL GROUP IN GOP RESPONSIBLE FORMULATION GOP POSITIONS THESE AREAS. RELATIONSHIPS OF AID, TRADE AND FINANCE TRIAD TO PURPOSES AND CONTENT PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO HIM.

3. WHILE SICAT UNDERSTANDS AND SYMPATHETIC TO USAID CONCENTRATION ON TWO KEY SECTORS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WELL INFORMED NATURE OF PROPOSED NEW AID LEGISLATION, HE ALSO KEENLY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES APPLIED OTHER ASIAN, AFRICAN AND LA PROGRAMS.

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4. SICAT VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND FORTHCOMING INDIVIDUAL WHO

IN EXCELLENT POSITION PROVIDE WASHINGTON STAFF GOOD SENSE OF CURRENT PHILIPPINE SITUATION AND PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE.

5. IN VIEW ABOVE, REQUEST AID/W PREPARE FULL DAY PROGRAM FOR SICAT NOVEMBER 20 COVERING, TOGETHER WITH ITEMS AID/W THINKS APPROPRIATE, FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. CALL ON ADMINISTRATOR PARKER WITH WHOM SICAT HAS DINNER IN MANILA LAST MARCH.

B. MEETING WITH ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR MACDONALD FOR OVERVIEW CURRENT AND FY75 PHILIPPINE AND ASIA-WIDE PROGRAMS FROM AID/W PERSPECTIVE. OVERVIEW PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC SITUATION MIGHT ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

C. VISIT WITH ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR BIRNBAUM TO DISCUSS KEY DEVELOPMENTAL POLICY MATTERS WHICH AID CURRENTLY ADDRESSING AND IN WHICH SICAT SPECIFICALLY INTERESTED E.G. EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME STRATEGIES; FACTOR PRICING; URBANIZATION OF RURAL SETTINGS.

D. AS FOLLOW-UP MELCHOR WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS AND RECENT DISCUSSIONS HERE WITH SECRETARY VIRATA, SICAT WOULD LIKE DISCUSS PL 480 TITLE I PROSPECTS WITH APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT AGRICULTURE AND STATE/AID PEOPLE.

E. FOR SEVERAL YEARS SICAT HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN KOREAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE TYPE PROGRAM. DURING RECENT VISIT SEOUL SICAT'S INTEREST THIS MATTER WAS INTENSIFIED.

WE HAVE NOT ENCOURAGED SICAT LOOK TO AID FOR FINANCING THIS ACTIVITY DUE NEED CONCENTRATE AVAILABLE RESOURCES RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY PLANNING SECTORS. HOWEVER, BELIEVE IDEA HAS CONSIDERABLE MERIT HERE WHERE ABUNDANT TALENT AVAILABLE AND KNOW SICAT WOULD APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS WITH APPROPRIATE AID OFFICIALS (PRESUMABLY PPC AND TAB).
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